



Indiana State
Department of Health
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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner

April 30, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The CDC guidance on school and childcare closure states that: Dismissal of students should be strongly **considered** in schools with a **confirmed or a suspected case epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case**. The complete guidance on this subject is on the CDC Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm>

Given the pandemic severity index of one as announced by CDC, suggesting that this virus is causing illness no more severe than seasonal influenza, this guidance shows good reasoning. My recommendation to the Governor and to the Department of Education is that Indiana follow the current guidance from CDC. Indiana schools are completing ISTEP this week and students will be completing the school year and taking final exams in the next few weeks. Unless there is a real risk within a school, it should not be closed which disrupts both the student's academic progress and creates logistical problems for parents. The ISDH will be available to assist you in making the decision to dismiss a school in the event that we identify a confirmed case or suspect case epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Howell, State Epidemiologist at 317-431-5015.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.
State Health Commissioner